

On the occasion of the 12th Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Launch of the Accessible Audio Version of the United Nations Disability and Development Report

Wednesday 12 June 2019, 8:45-9:30am, Conference Room 11

organized by the Programme on Disability of the Division for Inclusive Social Development of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and United Nations Publications

Co-sponsored by the Japan International Cooperation Agency, UNICEF and the World Blind Union

Concept note

Overview

In 2014, the UN General Assembly requested a flagship report reflecting on progress towards persons with disabilities vis-à-vis the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and internationally agreed development goals.¹ This UN flagship report, entitled ‘Disability and Development Report - Realizing the SDGs by, for and with persons with disabilities | 2018’, was released in December 2018 and it is the first publication to address, at the global level, disability inclusion in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

This flagship report is the first global analysis based on an unprecedented amount of data, legislation and policies from over 100 countries to understand the socio-economic circumstances of persons with disabilities and the challenges and barriers they face in their daily lives. The publication examines new areas, like the role of access to energy to enable persons with disabilities to use assistive technology, for which no global research was previously available. And explores the linkages between the Sustainable Development Goals and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as well as other international relevant norms and standards relating to disability. Against the backdrop of all the available evidence, it identifies good practices and recommends urgent actions to be taken for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by, for and with persons with disabilities.

The accessible audio version of the Disability and Development Report will be launched on 12 June 2019. This is one of the first UN publications to be fully produced in audio version, as part of a pilot project at the United Nations to increase the accessibility of its publications for persons with disabilities. The United

¹ General Assembly resolution 69/142, *Realizing the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities towards 2015 and beyond*, A/RES/69/142 (18 December 2014), available from <https://undocs.org/A/RES/69/142>.

Nations adopted in May 2019 a system-wide Disability Inclusion Strategy and is committed to lead by example in mainstreaming disability-inclusion and promoting the rights of persons with disabilities.

This Launch will include a demo of the audio version of the Disability and Development Report

Opening remarks:

Ms. Akiko Ito, Chief, Program on Disability/Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Division for Inclusive Social Development, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Ms. Maria Martinho, Program on Disability/Secretariat for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Division for Inclusive Social Development, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Demo:

Mr. Stephen James McGroarty, UN Publications

Mr. Winryck Ford, UN Publications

Speakers:

Ms. Maria Soledad Cisternas Reyes, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility

Mr. Gopal Mitra, UNICEF

Mr. Hannes Lagrelius, World Blind Union

Mr. Kenji Kuno, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

Other speakers from Member States, UN agencies and civil society, including organizations of persons with disabilities TBC

The event is open to all UN pass holders and will be webcast at: <http://webtv.un.org/>